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May 17, 2012

To: The Honorable Virginia Foxx  
Chairwoman, House Education and Workforce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2176 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Foxx,

I am writing to express my strong support of Rep. Sam Johnson's Small Business Health Fairness Act, which would provide small businesses with an opportunity to pool resources together to provide their employees with better, more affordable health insurance coverage. This legislation is a priority for not only my business but also the franchising community of 733,000 small business establishments across the country.

As a member of the International Franchise Association, I have seen first-hand how small businesses and franchisees are challenged in offering competitive health benefits. The federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act, which currently permits large corporations and labor organizations to "self-insure" and offer insurance with certain exemptions from state law, does not provide small business with the same advantage. The law must be reformed to empower small employers with the ability to obtain and offer competitively priced health insurance.

The Small Business Health Fairness Act would allow small business employers, including franchise owners, the ability to obtain and offer health insurance benefits through membership in a trade association, as well as a franchise system. With rising medical costs being a top concern of both individuals and employers, the impact of this increased availability of affordable insurance would be significant.

Please let me know if you have any questions, and thank you for considering my views. I appreciate your strong support of the small businesses and the franchise community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David E. Gronewoller', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

David E. Gronewoller